

## Message Text

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15  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/060 W

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R 151311Z OCT 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7528  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL POTPOURRI

REF: MADRID 5827

1. PSOE "HISTORICALS" HOLD CONGRESS. THE PSOE'S SO-CALLED  
HISTORICAL FACTION HELD ITS LONG PLANNED CONGRESS OCT 9-12 IN  
MADRID. THE 300 MOSTLY ELDERLY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT APPROVED  
A PROGRAMMATIC STATEMENT WHICH APPEARS TO DIVERGE LITTLE, IF AT  
ALL, FROM SIMILAR PRONOUNCEMENTS BY THE FELIPE GONZALEZ-LED  
PSOE MAINSTREAM. THEY ALSO, HOWEVER, REITERATED THEIR REJEC-  
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TION OF PARTY REUNIFICATION UNTIL THE MAINSTREAM ADJURES ANY

"COOPERATION" WITH THE PCE, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE PLATA-JUNTA, AND THEIR INTENTION TO FUNCTION LEGALLY UNDER THE EXISTING POLITICAL ASSOCIATION LAW (THEIR APPLICATION FOR LEGALIZATION IS PENDING.)

2. 70-YEAR-OLD JOSE PRAT WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT AND 37-YEAR-OLD MANUEL MURILLO, PART OF AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE GROUP A MORE YOUTHFUL IMAGE, WAS CHOSEN SECGEN. THEY REPLACED RECENT RETURNEES FROM MEXICAN EXILE OVIDIO SALCEDO AND VICTOR SALAZAR, WHOSE MEXICAN CITIZENSHIP HAS CAUSED THE GROUP SOME PROBLEMS IN ITS QUEST FOR LEGALIZATION AND HAS LENT THE ORGANIZATION THE APPELLATION "LOS MEXICANOS." THE "HISTORICALS" CLAIM SOME 13,500 ADHERENTS, OVER ONE-THIRD OF WHOM, BY THE ORGANIZATION'S OWN COUNT, RESIDE OUTSIDE OF SPAIN. HOWEVER, AS THE RESULT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S OWN INTERNAL SCHISMS (REFTEL), ITS ACTUAL MEMBERSHIP IS PLACED AS LOW AS 20 PERCENT OF THAT FIGURE, WITH MUCH OR MOST OF THE REST AMENABLE TO ABSORPTION BY THOSE PSOE MAINSTREAM LED BY FELIPE GONZALEZ.

3. POLL FAVORS POLITICAL CENTER. THERE CURRENTLY ARE POLLS AND PURPORTED POLLS OF DUBIOUS VALIDITY FOR EVERY POLITICAL TASTE AND PROCLIVITY. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING PARTIAL RESULTS, WHICH WERE OBTAINED IN NATIONWIDE POLL PUBLISHED IN THE NEW WEEKLY MAGAZINE "OPINION" ARE REPORTED BECAUSE THEY APPEAR TO SUPPORT THE MORE IMPRESSIONISTIC OBSERVATIONS OF INFORMED POLITICAL PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS. IN THIS POLL THE NO RESPONSE CATEGORY CONTINUES HIGH (IN THE 40 PERCENT RANGE) THOUGH LESS THAN EARLIER.

--WHAT APPROACH IS MOST APPROPRIATE FOR ARRIVING AT A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY? THE GOVT'S (38 PERCENT); THE OPPOSITION'S (16 PERCENT); BOTH (15 PERCENT); NO RESPONSE (27 PERCENT).

11 WHICH POLITICAL TENDENCY IS BEST CAPABLE OF GOVERNING THE COUNTRY? CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (17 PERCENT); SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (16.6 PERCENT); SOCIALISTS (13 PERCENT); FRANCOISTS (4.4 PERCENT); LIBERALS (3.1 PERCENT); COMMUNISTS (1.8 PERCENT); FALANGISTS (1.7 PERCENT); NO RESPONSE (42.4 PERCENT).

--WHICH TENDENCIES ENJOY THE MOST SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRY? CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (16.2 PERCENT); SOCIALISTS (13.8 PERCENT); SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (13.4 PERCENT); FRANCOISTS (7.2 PERCENT); FALANGISTS (2.8 PERCENT); COMMUNISTS (2.5 PERCENT); LIBERALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(2.5 PERCENT); NO RESPONSE (41.6 PERCENT).

4. CALVO SERER AND COMPANY ON US TRIP. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CALVO SERER, ACCOMPANIED BY FELLOW TRAVELERS TAMAMES AND VIDAL BENEYTO, STATED MODESTLY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE THREE DURING THEIR RECENT TRIP TO THE US, "TOOK THE FIRST STEP IN OBTAINING IN THE US, AT A TIME WHEN THE USG IS REEXAMINING THE COLD WAR POLITICS WHICH IT HAS PURSUED UNTIL NOW, WHAT WE

ALREADY HAVE IN EUROPE: THE RECOGNITION OF THE SPANISH OPPOSITION."

5. COMMENT: THE TRIO'S SELF-PROMOTION IN THE US AND NOW IN MADRID, THE APPARENT INGENUOUSNESS OF AT LEAST SOME OF THEIR INTERLOCUTORS IS TROUBLESOM FOR MANY HERE, E.G., THE PSOE'S LUIS YANEZ WAS NONPLUSSED WHEN HE WAS TOLD, AT THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, THAT HE WAS BEING FOLLOWED IN A FEW DAYS BY "THE THREE LEADERS OF THE SPANISH OPPOSITION," AND EVEN MORE NONPLUSSED WHEN HE FOUND THAT THE THREE GENTLEMEN IN QUESTION WERE IN FACT THE SO-CALLED LEADERS.  
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